

What is claimed is:

1. A method for metering a reagent (13) into the exhaust gas flow (13) of an internal combustion engine (10), in which the reagent (13) is guided in at least one component (14, 15) and in which a measure for the temperature of the component (14, 15) is recorded,  
wherein the measure for the temperature is compared to a predefined temperature threshold value (29); the number of times the threshold is exceeded is counted in a counter (45, 51); a count threshold value (54) is predefined for the number of times the threshold is exceeded; and a service signal (55) is made available in response to the exceeding of the count threshold value (54).
2. The method as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the temperature threshold value (29) is equivalent to the freezing temperature of the reagent (13).
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein after shutting down the internal combustion engine (10), during coasting, it is ascertained whether the component (14, 15) is filled with the reagent (13).
4. The method as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein the counter (51) is developed as an ice counter; and the ice counter counts an exceeding of the temperature threshold value (29) only when the component (14, 15) is filled with the frozen reagent (13).
5. The method as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein during the ascertaining of whether the component (14, 15) is filled with the reagent (13), a compressed air signal (43) is evaluated.
6. The method as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein, during the ascertaining of whether the component (14, 15) is filled with the reagent (13), the operation of an emergency stop switch (38) is taken into consideration.

7. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein an exceeding of the temperature threshold value (29) is counted only at the start of the internal combustion engine (10).
8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the measure for the temperature of the component (14, 15) is obtained from the signal of at least one temperature sensor (18, 20, 22, 24).
9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the temperature sensor (18, 20) records the temperature of the component (14, 15).
10. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the temperature sensor (24) records the air temperature.